

## **RESOLUTION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

To Support the Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network and the statewide postsecondary attainment goal of "65 by 2025"

## Resolution 1-2016

WHEREAS, Alaska has long been ranked as one of the lowest-performing states in postsecondary access and completion and, currently, only 37 percent of Alaska's working-age adults hold a college degree, and 13 percent hold certificates (50 percent combined credentialed workers); and

WHEREAS, Alaska is one of a few states in which 18- to 34-year olds have lower postsecondary attainment rates than do 35- to 64-year olds; and, at 30 percent, has among the highest rates of adults with some college credit but no degree; and

**WHEREAS,** the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development projects that by 2020 roughly 65 percent of Alaska's fastest-growing, high-wage jobs will require some postsecondary credential; and

WHEREAS, Alaskan stakeholders committed to improving the state's overall postsecondary attainment rates include school districts, Native corporations and tribal organizations, elected officials, the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, the University of Alaska, and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development; and

WHEREAS, these and other stakeholders are focused on related work within their own organizations and also seeking increased coordinated and unified effort through membership and participation in the Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network (the Network); and

WHEREAS, the Network will develop, support, and assess initiatives that strengthen postsecondary expectations, preparation, financing, and support services with a goal to increase the percentage of all Alaskans who complete postsecondary education, particularly earning credentials relevant to a robust Alaskan economy; and

WHEREAS, the Network has set an attainment goal for Alaska – "65 by 2025" – highlighting the imperative to increase the percent of working-age adults holding a high-value certificate, college degree, or other industry-recognized credential from 50 percent to 65 percent by 2025, particularly gaining credentials aligned to Alaska's workforce needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the State Board of Education & Early Development commends the work and mission of the Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network and commits to ongoing collaboration.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State Board of Education & Early Development endorses the "65 by 2025" postsecondary attainment goal and intends to actively engage as a Network member organization working to achieve "65 by 2025."

ADOPTED June 17, 2016